and are suffering from acute water shortage?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise, as no spcific detailed project report for setting up of desalinating sea water plant, to meet shortage of drinking water in Madras or any other city in the country has so far been received.

Promotions to the Post of Assistant Manager on ad-hoc basis in Telecom Factories

877. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about fifteen Assistant Engineers or Engineers of Telecom Factories have been promoted to the post of Assistant Manager on ad-hoc basis without holding the proper departmental promotion committee meeting;

(b) whether in the process of such ad-hoc promotion some meritorious service holders have been denied their rightful claims for being promoted as Assistant Managers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to remove the discontentment amongst the meritorious staff holding the post of Assistant Engineer/Engineers in Telecom Factories in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) Yes, Sir. Since the promotion is on purely ad-hoc basis for a period not exceeding one year, no regular DPC was convened and the promotion was purely on seniority-cum-fitness.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In view or reply to (b) above, does not arise.

Possibility of the use of nuclear weapons in the Gulf War

878. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the statements made by key U.S. authorities indicating the active consideration of the use of nuclear weapons in the Gulf war; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(b) whether Government are prepared to review their nuclear policy and to consider using their option of converting our nuclear weapons capability into nuclear weapons grade capacity if the U.S. actually uses nuclear weapons in the Gulf War?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) During a television interview of 2nd February, 1991, the US Vice President, Quayle said, "I just cannot imagine President Bush making the decision . . . . to use chemical or nuclear weapons under any circumstances." The US Vice President suggested that Allied conventional forces were so superior that a "proper response to a first use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi's would be to continue our very devastating campaign with conventional weapons." He indicated however, that the administration will "never rule any options out. The Government issued a statement on 8th February, 1991, expressing deep concern on this issue. A copy of the Statement is attached.

Statement

Government of India is deeply concerned over statements made recently by the parties engaged in the Gulf conflict, emanating from very high levels, regarding the